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Congress of the United States
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March 18, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by RUB DATE 8/21/89

The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
EXCISE () DECLASSIFY IN PART
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ACTION
is assigned to

Dear Mr. Secretary:

ES authority to:
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NEA

Thank you for your letter of March 14th in reply to my letter of February 19th regarding United States policy on the issue of an Afghan settlement.

I write again to clarify the issue I raised in my February 19th letter to you -- the conditions under which the United States will agree to terminate U.S. assistance to the guerilla organizations fighting the Soviet-backed regime in Afghanistan.

In your response to my February 19th letter you stated "we will maintain our assistance to the Afghan resistance until we are satisfied that our goal of an irreversible withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is assured." However, a letter sent by President Reagan to Senate majority leader Bryd apparently stated that cessation of U.S. assistance "must be matched by cessation of similar aid" to the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul.

These two statements are in conflict. My question is: Is the end of all Soviet aid to Afghanistan a precondition for cessation of U.S. aid to the Mujahedeen or is the initiation of an "irreversible withdrawal" the only precondition? If your answer is the first, isn't that a change in U.S. position and what is the reason for this change?

Finally, I would appreciate it if you could clarify what, specifically, is the nature of the U.S. role as a "guarantor" of an Afghan settlement. What responsibilities does the U.S. incur in this role? As a guarantor, but a non-party to the Geneva negotiations, can the U.S. independently interpret elements of the agreement? Specifically what is the U.S. role in interpreting the language in the agreement that states that "outside interference" will be ceased at the same time that Soviet troop withdrawals begin?

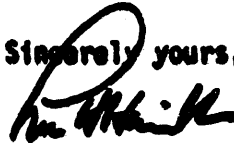
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I appreciate your consideration of this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Lee H. Hamilton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Europe
and the Middle East

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